

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and double patenting rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 59-61 and 68-73 are now pending in the application, with Claims 59, 68 and 71 being independent. Claims 54-58 and 62-67 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 59-61 and 68-73 have been amended herein.

The title has been amended as requested by the Examiner. Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the objection to the title are requested.

Claims 54-73 were rejected under obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,762,854. This rejection is traversed.

Each of independent Claims 59, 68 and 71 recites, inter alia, that a printing apparatus includes an interface, a printer controller, an engine controller and a warning unit. The warning unit can provide a first warning in response to a remaining amount of recording material becoming low and the printer controller can read time information stored in a non-volatile memory unit provided in a cartridge via an engine controller and can control the warning unit to provide a second warning based on the read time information. The engine controller can control a printer engine based on print data rendered by the printer controller, can perform bi-directional communication with the printer controller and the non-volatile memory unit, and can control the non-volatile memory unit to store time information regarding a time on which the cartridge was used.

Support for these features can be found in Fig. 3 and discussion thereof. With these arrangements, the warning unit can be efficiently used without providing an additional load on the engine controller.

The claims of US '854 are directed to a printing apparatus and method, with the printing apparatus using a cartridge containing a recording material and provided with a non-volatile memory unit. A warning is provided in response to a remaining amount of the recording material becoming low. The non-volatile memory unit is controlled to store time information on a year, a month and a day on which the cartridge was first used and a lifetime of the cartridge is calculated based on the time information stored in the memory unit. The warning is provided based on the calculated lifetime of the cartridge.

However, the claims of US '854 do not recite the interrelationship between the printer controller, engine controller and warning unit, as is recited in independent Claims 59, 68 and 71 of the current application. Further, the claims of the '854 patent do not recite that the warning unit provides a first warning in response to a remaining amount of recording material becoming low and a second warning based on read time information. Nor would the differences be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Thus, independent Claims 59, 68 and 71 are patentable over the claims of US '854. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the double patenting rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 59, 68 and 71. Dependent Claims 60, 61, 69, 70, 72 and 73 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the

present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims.

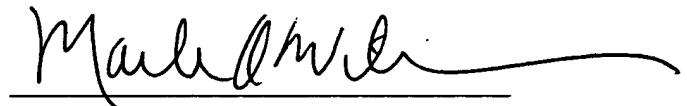
Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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